

means for allocating the data from the data terminal device to the plurality of lines; and

means for separately controlling a clock signal for receiving data from the data terminal device and a clock signal for transmitting data to the plurality of lines;

wherein the line delay times of the plurality of lines are measured, and the data is transmitted to the plurality of lines in units with timing determined for each of the plurality of lines, thereby guaranteeing the data being communicated.

7. (Amended) A line switching unit according to claim 6, wherein the clock signal for transmitting data to the plurality of lines is controlled to correspond to the line speed when receiving data from the data terminal device.

Please add the following new claims 8-10.

-8. A line switching unit for switching data received on an input line to one of a plurality of output lines based on line delay times of the plurality of output lines, said line switching unit comprising:

means for allocating the received data to said plurality of output lines;

means for storing data allocated to the plurality of output lines;

means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines;

and

means responsive to the measured line delay times for controlling said allocation means to allocate the received data to the plurality of output lines based on the measured line delay times.

9. A line switching unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein said responsive means allocates to a first one of the output lines an amount of the received data corresponding to the measured line delay time of the first one of the output lines, and allocates subsequently received data to another of the output lines.

10. A line switching unit for switching data received on an input line to one of a plurality of output lines based on line delay times of the plurality of output lines, said line switching unit comprising:

means for allocating the received data to said plurality of output lines;

a first line buffer for storing data allocated to a first one of the plurality of output lines;

a second line buffer for storing data allocated to the others of the plurality of output lines;

means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines;

and

means responsive to the measured line delay times for controlling said allocation means to provide the received data to said first line buffer up to a time corresponding to the measured line delay time of the first one of the plurality of output lines, and to provide subsequently received data to the second line buffer.--